3: Anonymous U-4 (no date) 1920 RH1 Caucasia RH1

7,000 tons; buckwheat, 21,000 acres, 7,000 tons; 241
lentils, beans, and haricots, 20,000 acres, 5,300 tons;
peas, 9,000 acres, 3,000 tons. Ramie fibre and attar of
roses are produced on the Black Sea coast.

Live-stock and Animal Products.—Owing to the ten- 231
dency to convert pasture into arable land, there has
been a great decrease in the numbers of live-stock
raised in Caucasia of late years. To this rule, however,
the Jevat and Geokchai districts in Baku Government
present an exception; for cattle and horse raising has
there been developed into an important industry, the
profit obtained in the former region in 1914 being
estimated at £70,000. In 1913 the total area devoted to [233]
pasturage, which is situated in the steppes and on the
mountain slopes up to an elevation of 9,000 ft., was
3,700,000 acres, and the animals in the country com-
prised 6,327,000 head of cattle, 2,135,000 horses,
13,336,000 sheep and goats, and 1,215,000 pigs. The
largest numbers of animals are found in Kuban and
Terek; there were in 1912 nearly 4,500,000 of all kinds
in the former province and nearly 3,500,000 in the
latter.

Buffaloes and a small breed of *oxen* are bred in large [492]
numbers; they are used as draught animals, and in
some districts as beasts of burden and for ploughing.
The best breed of buffaloes is reared in the Governments
of Elisavetopol and Kutais.

Horses are raised in other southern districts of Baku
besides those already named, and on the Karabagh
steppe, which extends from Baku into Elisavetopol;
in the valley of the Terek and the Kabarda districts
near Vladikavkaz; and in the Provinces of Kuban
and Stavropol. A breed of mountain ponies is reared
in Kutais. There are numerous private studs.

Camels, which are bred in the south-eastern provinces, [492]
are used chiefly as pack animals in the transport of
goods to and from Persia, but occasionally also for
draught purposes.

Great numbers of *sheep* and *goats* are bred on the 231
steppes and plateaux and in the hill districts. The 236

317 to unscientific methods of removal. Much ore is con-
[364] sequently wasted. Since 1909 an increasing amount of ore has been washed for the preparation of ferro-manganese, and this has resulted in the serious pollution of the River Kvirili, which runs through the mining district. Regulations have been made to control the practice of discharging refuse into the river, and plans formed to collect the refuse-laden water in an artificial basin, where it could be purified and utilized for generating electric power to be employed in the ferro-manganese furnaces. Little improvement, however, had been effected by 1914.

[471] Many small native firms are occupied in manganese-mining. A little before the war foreign capitalists were acquiring manganese-bearing land, which is usually leased in small lots of from half an acre to 50 acres in extent; about 1910 there was an extensive acquisition of unworked land by German firms. The recent tendency has been for the control of the industry to pass from small to large concerns.

There was a heavy slump in manganese just before 1908, but since that year the output has greatly increased: in 1910 it amounted to 548,300 metric tons; in 1911 it fell again to 451,600 metric tons, but in 1912 it rose to the high figure of 913,500 metric tons, and in
[439] 1913 to 1,051,500 metric tons. Nearly the whole output is exported; export figures are given on pp. 83 and 84. The trade was very heavily hit by the war.

Chiaturi competes with India and Brazil for pride of place as supplier of manganese to the world. It has, however, been handicapped by difficulties of transport, though favoured to some extent in the matter of freight rates. The Sharopan–Sachkeri rail-
[492] way lies some distance from the mines, and the ore has to be conveyed in carts or on pack animals to the station, whence further carriage to Poti or Batum is both slow and expensive. The Association of Manganese Producers (see p. 79) had up to 1914 failed to secure from the State anything beyond promises of improvement.